

Senator Stan Schellpeper will have to gain new people. Senator Kristensen gains a tremendous number of new people and so on. That is simply a reality no matter what the situation. What we have to decide a statewide plan is not what takes care of my good friend over here, not what takes care of this over there, but what is the basic intent of the over all plan. This particular amendment has the same problem that Senator Owen Elmer's plan had in my opinion and, once again, we put a district that will not have any opportunity at any time to vote for or have input in an appointment or a state senator, and even when the term of Senator Elmer's expires, when he represents the Dawson County/Phelps County area, the voters will never even be able to say whether they liked that or not because he will be gone. He will be back in the other district and he will be running against Senator Haberman which, interestingly enough, the power of that district has shifted to McCook. I'm sure I understand why Senator Owen Elmer likes this plan. That's not the reason for statewide plans. The reason is what can we do over all for community of interest, geographic interest, and it makes sense in regards to population representation to all people. It doesn't make sense if you have plans that are relatively the same and you have one glaring difference. One is an area that will not have any say in their representation even after the fact. The difference is in the Bernard-Stevens plan, true, Senator Cudaback would come over and represent Dawson County, a new area, new people, and they won't have a vote until Senator Cudaback's term is up, which would be the same as Senator Elmer's. But the difference is critical, I think, because under the Schrock plan the senator that has been responsible for those people then leaves. Under the Bernard-Stevens plan, the senator who's been responsible then would stand for reelection and would be able to have the voters of that district say, we like what you've done, we like what you're doing, we want to have you again. There's some credibility and accountability to...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ..the senator and the people involved and that's critical. That's very, very important. And I don't think it's wise, personally, to sacrifice that in order to make a district for someone that we have a lot of respect for. That's not the purpose of redistricting and I think that, above all, the Legislature on these types of things must stand for principles and ideas of representation above all, not to mention